

TRIBUTE TO BRUNO NOWICKI

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an outstanding gentleman, Mr. Bruno Nowicki, ninety years young, on the occasion of his Testimonial Banquet on October 11, 1998 at the Polish Century Club in Detroit.

Bruno Nowicki was born in Poland and came to the United States in 1926 as an exchange student at Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh. After one semester, he began to work as a reporter for the Polish newspaper, and subsequently moved to Chicago and then to Detroit where he started the Hamtramck Business World in 1931.

He changed course in 1936 and opened a monument business in the metropolitan Detroit area. Bruno sold not just cemetery memorials, his work included designing and building monuments that celebrate Poland. After fifty years in the monument business, Bruno "retired" to return to the Polish newspaper he left 50 years earlier and of which he later became a partial owner. This year, he was honored by the U.S. Conference of Polish Newspapers as "the oldest Polish newspaperman working in the United States."

Actively involved in communities in both Poland and the United States, Bruno served on the Board of Governors of the Detroit Public Library, a founder of the Polish Riverfront Festival whose contributions benefit children's hospitals in Poland, and on the Board of the Polish Daily News. Bruno is a member of the Polish Century Club, the American-Polish Century Club, the Smith Old Timers, and the Monday night Lotto Club.

An avid chess player, Bruno still participates in tournaments around the world where he "wins his age division."

Bruno believes that "no one has created a better way to perpetuate history and deeds than by monuments which endure and remind future generations of the contributions of the past." A designer, not a sculptor, he set out to work with others to design and build monuments that would remind future generations of the American-Polish culture and heritage. His first monument is the Veteran's War Memorial, dedicated in Hamtramck in 1950, listing the names of the servicemen and women who died in World War II and Korea. Additional names of those who fell in the Vietnam War were subsequently added.

Bruno's other monuments depicting the arts, science and religion can be seen in the Polish room of the Ethnic Conference and Study Center at Wayne State University, Detroit Main Library, Hamtramck Public Library, Alliance College in Pennsylvania, Interlochen Music School and Academy, Detroit Science Center, and of course, his statue in Hamtramck of Pope John Paul II commemorating the first Polish Pope.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our best wishes to this remarkable man and close friend for good health and happiness as he continues his work to ensure that Poland's people and its history will live on and the role of Polish-Americans fully understood and acknowledged in the United States of America.

ANKARA'S DECISION TO SENTENCE LEYLA ZANA A BLATANT VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my indignation over the decision of the Turkish government to sentence Leyla Zana, the Kurdish parliamentarian who is currently serving a 15-year sentence, to 2 additional years in prison as a blatant violation of the freedom of expression and an insult to her supporters worldwide.

This time, the Turkish authorities charge that Leyla Zana broke the law in a letter she wrote to the People Democracy Party (HADEP) to urge them to be forthcoming, diligent, decisive and to push for individual and collective freedoms. The fact that Leyla Zana has been charged with inciting racial hatred reveals that Turkey is a racist state and continues to deny the Kurds a voice in the state.

As my colleagues know, Leyla Zana is the first Kurdish woman every elected to the Turkish parliament. She won her office with more than 84 percent of the vote in her district and brought the Turkish Grand National Assembly a keen interest for human rights and a conviction that the Turkish war against the Kurds must come to an end. Last year, 153 Members of this body joined together and signed a letter to President Bill Clinton urging him to raise Leyla Zana's case with the Turkish authorities and seek her immediate and unconditional release from prison.

Leyla Zana was kept in custody from March 5, 1994, until December 7, 1994 without a conviction. On December 8, 1994, the Ankara State Security Court sentenced her and five other Kurdish parliamentarians to various years in prison. Leyla Zana was accused of making a treasonous speech in Washington, DC., other speeches elsewhere, and wearing a scarf that bore the Kurdish colors of green, red, and yellow. This year marks her fifth year behind the bars.

Today, in Turkish Kurdistan, 40,000 people have lost their lives. More than 3,000 Kurdish villages have been destroyed. Over 3 million residents have become destitute refugees. Despite several unilateral cease-fires by the Kurdish side, the Turkish army continues to pursue policies of hatred, torture and murder, and genocide of the Kurdish people.

Mr. Speaker, as I finish my sixth year in office as a Member of the United States Congress, I find it outrageous that the government of Turkey, after so much outcry, after so much petitioning and after so much publicity would dare to punish her again incensing her friends and supporters all over the world. There is only one word that comes to my mind and it is, fear, Mr. Speaker. The government of Turkey is afraid of Leyla Zana and it thinks it can lock her away forever. That was the story of those who locked Nelson Mandela. The longest nights, Mr. Speaker, give way to bright dawns. Mr. Mandela is a public servant now. And the world is grateful.

People like Leyla Zana who utter the words of reconciliation and accommodation need to be embraced, validated, and freed. I urge the government of Turkey to set aside its convic-

tion of Leyla Zana and free her immediately, and I urge my colleagues and government to condemn her conviction and make her release a priority.

IN HONOR OF FRANK VELTRI

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Frank Veltri of Plantation, FL. He is retiring after 24 years of service in this role, the culmination of a long history of public service to the community of South Florida.

Frank Veltri's private sector career began in 1932 at the age of 20. He was auditor for the Dinkler Hotel System before moving onto a more daring pursuit in 1942. It was in that year that Frank became a flight instructor and flight commander for the RAF British Flight Training School Number 5 at Clewiston, FL. Frank settled into a niche following his stint as a flight instructor and became quite involved at the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Miami, Beginning work at this association in 1945, his rise in stature is quite astonishing. Starting as a teller, assistant auditor, and chief accountant at the Association in Miami, Frank ultimately rose to the positions of Comptroller, Vice President, and Executive Vice President-Treasurer of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Broward County, FL.

Broward County has profited immensely from the dedication and hard work of Frank Veltri. As far back as 1953, when Frank initially joined the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, he became involved in all types of civic matters. He has been the Chief of the Plantation Volunteer Fire Department as well as the Director of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the American Red Cross. Additionally, he has been a member of the Plantation Chamber of Commerce, serving as both its Director and President. Lastly, Frank was elected to serve on the Plantation Council, a predecessor to his Mayoral election in 1975. Since 1975, he has been reelected for 5 consecutive four-year terms. This is truly a testament to the quality of his work for the people of South Florida.

The list of Committees on which Frank has served is also quite extensive. He has been a Member of the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization since 1977. In the early 1980's, Frank was a member of the Plantation Health Facilities Authority and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. In addition, he has been a Board Member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Mr. Speaker, I am simply one person who has chosen to formally recognize Frank's hard work, but by no means am I the first to do so. Governor Graham appointed Frank to be a Member of the Crime 2000 Conference in 1982: this is surely an example of the high level of dedication that Mayor Veltri has shown throughout his years of public service.

Though the civic arena is obviously very important to Frank Veltri, it is safe to say that Frank wears other important hats. He is also a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Simply put, I can't think of anything more important than one's relationship with their family.